

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A resource management system for a communications system comprising:
 - a resource manager; and
 - a resource control block, wherein
 - said resource control block corresponds to a resource of said communications system,
 - ~~said communications system comprises said resource, and~~
 - said resource control block maintains information regarding said resource, and
 - said resource manager is configured to assign an identifier to said resource control block.
2. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 1, wherein said resource is of one resource type of a plurality of ~~such~~ resource types and said resource control block comprises:
 - a generic section, said generic section containing information applicable to each of said a plurality of said ~~such~~ resource types; and
 - a resource-specific section, said resource-specific section containing information applicable to said one resource type.
3. **(Original)** The resource management system of claim 1, wherein said resource is a hardware component of said communications system.
4. **(Original)** The resource management system of claim 1, wherein said information includes a status of said resource.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
~~a resource manager,~~ wherein
- said communications system comprises a processor, communicatively coupled to
 - said resource,
 - said processor is configured to execute said resource manager, and
 - said resource manager is configured to maintain said resource control block in response to communications between said processor and said resource.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of resource control blocks, wherein
- said resource control block is a one of said plurality of resource control blocks,
 - ~~said resource manager is configured to assign an identifier to said resource control~~
~~block,~~
 - said identifier uniquely identifies said resource within said communications system, and
 - said identifier is configured to serve as an index into a table of pointers, each of said pointers pointing to at least one of said plurality of resource control blocks.
7. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of resources, wherein
- said plurality of resources include said resource,
 - said plurality of resources are coupled to one another in a hierarchy,
 - each of said plurality of resources is one of said a plurality of resource types, and
 - all of said plurality of resources that are in a single level of said hierarchy are of a single one of said plurality of resource types; and
- a plurality of resource control blocks, wherein
- said plurality of resource control blocks include said resource control block, and
 - each of said plurality of resource control blocks correspond to one of said plurality of resources.

8-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The resource management system of claim 7, further comprising:
a plurality of resource managers, wherein
said plurality of resource managers includes said resource manager,
each of said plurality of resource managers maintains a hierarchical list of said
plurality of resource control blocks, and
said hierarchical list represents resources controlled by said each of said plurality of
of resource managers.
11. (Currently Amended) The resource management system of claim 10, wherein said
hierarchical list is a resource list and said resource list stores information regarding said
hierarchy and interdependencies of said plurality of resources.
12. (Original) The resource management system of claim 7, wherein
said resource manager is a node resource manager, and
said resource control block is a node resource control block.
13. (Original) The resource management system of claim 10, wherein
said resource manager is a node resource manager, and
said resource control block is a node resource control block.
14. (Currently Amended) The resource management system of claim 11, wherein
each one of a first plurality of said plurality of resource managers is a shelf resource
manager, and
each one of a first plurality of said plurality of resource control blocks is a shelf resource
control block.
15. (Currently Amended) The resource management system of claim 14, wherein
each one of a second plurality of said plurality of resource managers is a group resource
manager, and
each one of a second plurality of plurality of said resource control blocks is a group
resource control block.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein
 each one of a third plurality of said plurality of resource managers is a line card resource
 manager, and
 each one of a third plurality of said plurality of resource control blocks is a line card
 resource control block.
17. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein
 each one of said a second plurality of said plurality of resource control blocks contains
 information from at least one of said third plurality of said plurality of resource
 control blocks,
 each one of said a first plurality of said plurality of resource control blocks contains
 information from at least one of said second plurality of said plurality of resource
 control blocks, and
 said resource control block contains information from at least one of said first plurality of
 said plurality of resource control blocks.
18. **(Currently Amended)** A resource management system for a communications system
 comprising:
a resource control block; and
 a resource manager, wherein
 said communications system includes a system processor having a resource
 communicatively coupled thereto, ~~and~~
 said system processor is configured to execute said resource manager, and
said resource manager is configured to assign an identifier to said resource control
block.
19. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 18, wherein
~~said data structure is a resource control block,~~
 said system processor is configured to create said resource control block.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 19, wherein said resource manager is further configured to maintain said resource control block ~~information~~ in response to communications between said system processor and said resource.
21. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 20, wherein said resource control block comprises ~~information~~ is status information.
22. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 20, wherein said resource manager is configured to cause ~~causes~~ said system processor to create said resource control block.
23. **(Original)** The resource management system of claim 20, wherein said resource is a hardware component of said communications system.
24. **(Original)** The resource management system of claim 20, further comprising:
a system resource control block, wherein said system resource control block maintains information regarding a status of said system processor.
25. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 20, further comprising:
a plurality of resource control blocks, wherein
said resource control block is a one of said resource control blocks,
~~said resource manager is configured to assign an identifier to said resource control~~
~~block,~~
said identifier uniquely identifies said resource within said communications system, and
said identifier is configured to serve as an index into a table of pointers, each of
said pointers pointing to at least one of said plurality of resource control blocks.

26. (Original) The resource management system of claim 20, wherein
said resource is one of a first plurality of resources, where each one of said first plurality
of resources is coupled to said system processor,
said resource control block is one of a first plurality of resource control blocks, and
each one of said first plurality of resource control blocks is stored on a corresponding one
of said first plurality of resources.
27. **(Currently Amended)** The resource management system of claim 26, further
comprising:
a plurality of resource managers, wherein
each one of said plurality of resource managers runs on a corresponding one of
said first plurality of resources and maintains a corresponding one of said
first plurality of resource control blocks, ~~and~~
~~at least one of said plurality of resource managers is configured specifically for a~~
~~one of said first plurality of resources running said at least one of said~~
~~plurality of resource managers.~~
28. (Original) The resource management system of claim 26, further comprising
a second plurality of resources, wherein
at least one of said second plurality of resources is coupled to said each one of
said first plurality of resources, and
said each one of said first plurality of resources comprises a resource processor;
a plurality of resource managers, each resource processor of said first plurality of
resources configured to run a corresponding one of said first plurality of resource
managers; and
a second plurality of resource control blocks, wherein
each one of said second plurality of resource control blocks maintains information
regarding a status of a one of said second plurality of resources,
said each resource processor of said first plurality of resources is configured to
maintain a one of said second plurality of resource control blocks
corresponding to said at least one of said second plurality of resources in

response to communications with said at least one of said second plurality of resources.

29. (Original) The resource management system of claim 26, wherein said system processor is configured to maintain information regarding said one of said second plurality of resource control blocks corresponding to said at least one of said second plurality of resources in response to communications with said at least one of said second plurality of resources and a corresponding one of said each resource processor of said first plurality of resources.

30. (Original) The resource management system of claim 20, wherein said resource manager is further configured to maintain network resource information, said network resource information corresponding to resources available to said system processor via a network to which said communications system is coupled.

31. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing a communications system, said method comprising:

creating a resource control block corresponding to a resource of said communications system, and
assigning an identifier to said resource control block using a resource manager, wherein
 said communications system comprises a processor and said resource,
 said resource is coupled to said processor, and
 said resource control block maintains information regarding a status of said
 resource

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said resource is a hardware component of said communications system.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 31, ~~further comprising:~~

~~assigning an identifier to said resource control block~~, wherein
 said resource control block is a one of a plurality of resource control blocks,
 said identifier uniquely identifies said resource within said communications
 system, and

said identifier is configured to serve as an index into a table of pointers, each of said pointers pointing to at least one of said plurality of resource control blocks.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
maintaining said resource control block, wherein
said processor is configured to maintain said resource control block,
said resource control block is maintained by said processor in response to
communications between said processor and said resource.
35. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
creating a processor resource control block corresponding to said processor.
36. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
receiving a power-up message from said resource, wherein said resource control block is
created by said processor in response to said power-up message from said
resource.
37. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
maintaining said resource control block in response to a receipt of a keep-alive message
from said resource.
38. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
maintaining said resource control block in response to a receipt of a reply from said
resource, wherein said reply is generated in response to a protocol message sent
by said processor.
39. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 34, wherein a protocol is employed in said
communications ~~with said resource~~.
40. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~39~~ 34, wherein
said protocol supports protocol messages is configured to cause
initialization of said resource,

said processor to download a command to said resource,
 said resource to execute said command,
 said resource to provide status information to said processor, and
 said resource to perform a self-test.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 34, further comprising
 for each one of a plurality of resources, creating a resource control block for each of said
 resources coupled to said each one of said resources, wherein
 said resource is one of said plurality of resources,
 each one of said plurality of resources is communicatively coupled to at least one
 other of said plurality of resources,
 said plurality of resources are arranged in a hierarchy having a plurality of levels,
 and
 said each of said plurality of resources coupled to said each one of said plurality
of resources is at a one of said levels below a one of said plurality of levels
 of said each one of said plurality of resources.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 41, further comprising:
 maintaining each one of said plurality of resource control blocks on a corresponding one
 of said plurality of resources, wherein
 a one of a plurality of resource managers corresponding to said each one of said
plurality of resource control blocks performs said maintaining of said each
 one of said plurality of resource control blocks; and
 maintaining a resource list for each one of said plurality of resource managers, wherein
 each of said resource list lists is a hierarchical list of ones of said plurality of
 resource control blocks that correspond to ones of said plurality of
 resources under control of a one of said plurality of resources
 corresponding to said each one of said plurality of resource managers.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 42, wherein said resource list represents at
 least a portion of said hierarchy and interdependencies between ones of said plurality of
 resources.

44-69 (Canceled)

70. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for managing a communications system, said method comprising:

means for creating a resource control block corresponding to a resource of said communications system, and
means for assigning an identifier to said resource control block using a resource manager,
wherein
said communications system comprises a processor and said resource,
said resource is coupled to said processor, and
said resource control block maintains information regarding a status of said resource.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein said resource is a hardware component of said communications system.

72. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 70, ~~further comprising:~~
~~means for assigning an identifier to said resource control block,~~ wherein
said resource control block is a one of a plurality of resource control blocks,
said identifier uniquely identifies said resource within said communications system, and
said identifier is configured to serve as an index into a table of pointers, each of said pointers pointing to at least one of said plurality of resource control blocks.

73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, further comprising:
means for maintaining said resource control block, wherein
said processor is configured to maintain said resource control block,
said resource control block is maintained by said processor in response to communications with said resource.

74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:
means for creating a processor resource control block corresponding to said processor.
75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:
means for receiving a power-up message from said resource, wherein said resource
control block is created by said processor in response to said power-up message
from said resource.
76. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:
means for maintaining said resource control block in response to a receipt of a keep-alive
message from said resource.
77. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:
means for maintaining said resource control block in response to a receipt of a reply from
said resource, wherein said reply is generated in response to a protocol message
sent by said processor.
78. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus claim 73, wherein a protocol is employed in said
communications ~~with said resource~~.
79. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~78~~ 73, wherein
said protocol supports protocol messages is configured to cause
initialization of said resource,
said processor to download a command to said resource,
said resource to execute said command,
said resource to provide status information to said processor, and
said resource to perform a self-test.
80. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising
means for creating, for each one of a plurality of resources, a resource control block for
each of said plurality of resources coupled to said each one of said plurality of
resources, wherein

said resource is one of said plurality of resources,
 each one of said plurality of resources is communicatively coupled to at least one
 other of said plurality of resources,
 said plurality of resources are arranged in a hierarchy having a plurality of levels,
 and
 said each of said plurality of resources coupled to said each one of said plurality
of resources is at a one of said levels below a one of said plurality of levels
 of said each one of said plurality of resources.

81. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 80, further comprising:
 means for maintaining each one of said plurality of resource control blocks on a
 corresponding one of said plurality of resources, wherein
 a one of a plurality of resource managers corresponding to said each one of said
plurality of resource control blocks is configured to perform maintenance
 of said each one of said plurality of resource control blocks; and
 means for maintaining a resource list for each one of said plurality of resource managers,
 wherein
 each of said resource list ~~lists~~ is a hierarchical list of ones of said plurality of
 resource control blocks that correspond to ones of said plurality of
 resources under control of a one of said plurality of resources
 corresponding to said each one of said plurality of resource managers.

82. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 81, wherein said resource list represents
 at least a portion of said hierarchy and interdependencies between ones of said plurality of
 resources.